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FROM: Berlin

TO: Secretary of State

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SENT DEPARTMENT 216, BONN 186, PARIS 18, LONDON 16, MOSCOW 55;  
REPEATED INFORMATION MUNICH, FRANKFURT, WARSAW, VIENNA.

POUCHED USAREUR AND USAFE

East press September 19 publishes text Soviet note handed GDR Ambassador Moscow yesterday in reply GDR note September 5 (OURTEL 197, Department Bonn 172). Soviet note expresses complete agreement on necessity conclusion peace treaty with Germany which would re-establish sovereign rights German people, lead to withdrawal foreign troops from German territory, guarantee peaceful development Germany and protect it from any foreign intervention. Absence peace treaty being used to include West Germany in preparation for atomic war. Conclusion peace treaty would accelerate reunification. "Recognizing responsibility four powers for peaceful settlement German question" Soviet ready participate four-power commission prepare peace treaty. Notes sent US, UK and France establishment four-power commission without delay. Soviets "welcome" GDR proposal formation commission representatives both German states and have sent note to FEDREP regarding GDR proposal. Copies of Soviet notes to three allied powers and FEDREP attached Soviet note for information GDR makes no mention FEDREP note transmitting Bundestag resolution. Soviet note formulated in sober way, with less propaganda than usual. It is obviously designed oblige western powers take cognizance GDR notes. By proposing advance old positions unacceptable to west, Soviets make it easier give negative reply FEDREP note, while maintaining appearance of reasonableness. Meanwhile Soviets may hope pressure eventually develop within West Germany to oblige FEDREP Government deal directly with GDR representatives, perhaps within framework four-power talks on German question.

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